

U.S. Serial No. 09/929,465 (Attorney Dkt: HALB:020)
Art Unit: 1712

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 4, 8-14, 27, 38, 42, 50, 56, and 82 and please delete claims 2 and 52, to read as indicated below.

U.S. Serial No. 09/929,465 (Attorney Dkt: HALB:020)

Art Unit: 1712

1. (Currently Amended) A drilling fluid comprising an invert emulsion wherein said invert emulsion has a base ~~or continuous phase comprising~~ consisting essentially of a blend of esters and isomerized olefins.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 1 wherein said isomerized olefins have a branched structure.
4. (Re-presented—formerly dependent claim 4) The A drilling fluid of claim 1 comprising an invert emulsion wherein said invert emulsion has a base or continuous phase comprising a blend of esters and wherein said isomerized olefins have having a cyclic structure.
5. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 1 wherein said isomerized olefins have about 10 to about 30 carbon atoms.
6. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 1 wherein said isomerized olefins comprise about 1 to about 99 weight percent of said blend.
7. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 1 wherein said esters comprise about 5 to about 99 weight percent of said blend.
8. (Re-presented—formerly dependent claim 8) A method for preparing aThe drilling fluid comprising an invert emulsion of claim 1 wherein said esters are said method comprising providing esters prepared from fatty acids and alcohols and blending said esters with isomerized olefins for the base of said emulsion.
9. (Currently Amended) The method drilling fluid of claim 1 8 wherein said esters are prepared from fatty acids having about 6 to about 14 carbon atoms and an alcohol.
10. (Currently Amended) The method drilling fluid of claim 1 8 wherein said esters are prepared from fatty acids having about 12 to about 14 carbon atoms and 2-ethyl hexanol.
11. (Currently Amended) The method drilling fluid of claim 1 8 wherein said esters are prepared from fatty acids having about 8 carbon atoms and 2-ethyl hexanol.

U.S. Serial No. 09/929,465 (Attorney Dkt: HALB:020)
Art Unit: 1712

12. (Currently Amended) The method drilling fluid of claim 1 & 8 wherein said esters are prepared from olefins.
13. (Currently Amended) The method drilling fluid of claim 1 & 8 wherein said esters are prepared from olefins and fatty acids or alcohols.
14. (Currently Amended) A drilling fluid comprising an invert emulsion wherein said invert emulsion has a base ~~or continuous phase comprising~~ consisting essentially of a blend of esters and olefin hydrocarbons.
15. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 14 wherein said olefin hydrocarbons are selected from the group comprising branched olefins, poly-branched olefins, and mixtures thereof.
16. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 15 wherein at least one double bond site is either internal the molecule or at the alpha position of the molecule.
17. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 14 wherein said olefin hydrocarbons comprise linear olefins where the double bond site or sites are internal the molecule.
18. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 14 wherein said olefin hydrocarbons comprise about 10 to about 30 carbon atoms.
19. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 14 wherein said olefin hydrocarbons comprise about 1 to about 99 weight percent of said blend.
20. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 14 wherein said esters comprise about 10 to about 99 weight percent of said blend.
21. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 14 wherein said esters are prepared from fatty acids and alcohols.
22. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 14 wherein said esters are prepared from fatty acids having about 6 to about 14 carbon atoms and an alcohol.
23. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 14 wherein said esters are prepared from fatty acids having about 12 to about 14 carbon atoms and 2-ethyl hexanol.
24. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 14 wherein said esters are prepared from fatty acids having about 8 carbon atoms and 2-ethyl hexanol.

U.S. Serial No. 09/929,465 (Attorney Dkt: HALB:020)
Art Unit: 1712

25. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 14 wherein said esters are prepared from olefins.
26. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 14 wherein said esters are prepared from olefins and fatty acids or alcohols.
27. (Currently Amended) A drilling fluid comprising an invert emulsion wherein said invert emulsion has a base ~~or continuous phase comprising~~ consisting essentially of a blend of esters and paraffin hydrocarbons.
28. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 27 wherein said paraffin hydrocarbons are selected from the group comprising linear paraffins, branched paraffins, poly-branched paraffins, cyclic paraffins, isoparaffins, and mixtures thereof.
29. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 27 wherein said paraffin hydrocarbons have about 10 to about 30 carbon atoms.
30. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 27 wherein said paraffin hydrocarbons comprise about 1 to about 99 weight percent of said blend.
31. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 27 wherein said esters comprise about 10 to about 99 weight percent of said blend.
32. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 27 wherein said esters are prepared from fatty acids and alcohols.
33. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 27 wherein said esters are prepared from fatty acids having about 6 to about 14 carbon atoms and an alcohol.
34. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 27 wherein said esters are prepared from fatty acids having about 12 to about 14 carbon atoms and 2-ethyl hexanol.
35. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 27 wherein said esters are prepared from fatty acids having about 8 carbon atoms and 2-ethyl hexanol.
36. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 27 wherein said esters are prepared from olefins.
37. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 27 wherein said esters are prepared from olefins and fatty acids or alcohols.

U.S. Serial No. 09/929,465 (Attorney Dkt: HALB:020)

Art Unit: 1712

38. (Currently Amended) A drilling fluid comprising an invert emulsion wherein said invert emulsion has a base ~~or continuous phase comprising~~ consisting essentially of a blend of esters and mineral oil hydrocarbons.
39. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 38 wherein said mineral oil hydrocarbons comprise less than about 1 weight percent aromatics.
40. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 38 wherein said mineral oil hydrocarbons are selected from the group comprising linear paraffins, isoparaffins, cycloparaffins, branched paraffins, cyclic paraffins, and mixtures thereof, having about 10 to about 30 carbon atoms.
41. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 38 wherein said mineral oil hydrocarbons comprise olefins, having about 10 to about 30 carbon atoms.
42. (Currently Amended) The drilling fluid of claim 41 wherein said olefins have chemical structures ~~similar to~~ of paraffins, isoparaffins, cycloparaffins, or branched paraffins.
43. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 38 wherein said esters comprise at least about 10 to about 99 weight percent of said blend.
44. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 38 wherein said esters are prepared from fatty acids and alcohols.
45. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 38 wherein said esters are prepared from fatty acids having about 6 to about 14 carbon atoms and 2-ethyl hexanol.
46. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 44 wherein said esters are prepared from fatty acids having about 12 to about 14 carbon atoms and 2-ethyl hexanol.
47. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 44 wherein said esters are prepared from fatty acids having about 8 carbon atoms and 2-ethyl hexanol.
48. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 38 wherein said esters are prepared from olefins.
49. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 38 wherein said esters are prepared from olefins and fatty acids.

U.S. Serial No. 09/929,465 (Attorney Dkt: HALB:020)
Art Unit: 1712

- 112 → 50. (Currently Amended) A drilling fluid comprising an invert emulsion wherein said invert emulsion has a base or continuous phase comprising a blend of glyceride triesters and other esters and glyceride triesters wherein said glyceride triesters are obtained or derived from an oil selected from the group comprising: olive oil, canola oil, castor oil, coconut oil, corn oil, cottonseed oil, lard oil, linseed oil, neatsfoot oil, palm oil, peanut oil, perilla oil, rice bran oil, safflower oil, sardine oil, sesame oil, soybean oil, sunflower oil, and mixtures thereof.
51. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 50 wherein said glyceride triesters comprise about 1 to about 99 weight percent of said blend.
52. (Canceled)
53. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 50 wherein said esters comprise about 10 to about 99 weight percent of said blend.
- Q2 54. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 50 wherein said esters are prepared from fatty acids and alcohols.
55. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 54 wherein said esters are prepared from fatty acids having about 12 to about 14 carbon atoms and 2-ethyl hexanol.
56. (Currently Amended) ~~The A drilling fluid of claim 54 wherein said~~ comprising an invert emulsion wherein said invert emulsion has a base or continuous phase comprising a blend of glyceride triesters and other esters ~~are prepared from fatty acids and alcohols having about 8 carbon atoms and 2-ethyl hexanol.~~
57. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 50 wherein said esters are prepared from olefins.
58. (Original) The drilling fluid of claim 50 wherein said esters are prepared from olefins and fatty acids or alcohols.
59. (Withdrawn)
60. (Withdrawn)
61. (Withdrawn)
62. (Withdrawn)

U.S. Serial No. 09/929,465 (Attorney Dkt: HALB:020)

Art Unit: 1712

63. (Withdrawn)
64. (Withdrawn)
65. (Withdrawn)
66. (Withdrawn)
67. (Withdrawn)
68. (Withdrawn)
69. (Withdrawn)
70. (Withdrawn)
71. (Withdrawn)
72. (Withdrawn)
73. (Withdrawn)
74. (Withdrawn)
75. (Withdrawn)
76. (Withdrawn)
77. (Withdrawn)
78. (Withdrawn)
79. (Withdrawn)
80. (Withdrawn)
81. (Original) A method of drilling a wellbore in a subterranean formation, said method comprising obtaining or preparing the drilling fluid of claim 1 and circulating same in said wellbore during said drilling.
82. (Currently Amended) A method of drilling a wellbore in a subterranean formation, said method comprising obtaining or preparing the drilling fluid prepared according to the method of claim 14 and circulating same in said wellbore during said drilling.
83. (Original) A method of drilling a wellbore in a subterranean formation, said method comprising obtaining or preparing the drilling fluid of claim 27 and circulating same in said wellbore during said drilling.
84. (Original) A method of drilling a wellbore in a subterranean formation, said method comprising obtaining or preparing the drilling fluid of claim 38 and circulating same in said wellbore during said drilling.

A²

U.S. Serial No. 09/929,465 (Attorney Dkt: HALB:020)

Art Unit: 1712

85. (Original) A method of drilling a wellbore in a subterranean formation, said method comprising obtaining or preparing the drilling fluid of claim 50 and circulating same in said wellbore during said drilling.

86. (Withdrawn)

87. (Withdrawn)

88. (Withdrawn)

89. (Withdrawn)
